

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 117 stating the intent of the legislature to encourage state agencies provide outreach to disadvantaged communities and consider waiving matching fund requirements while implementing grants from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protections Act of 2002 (Proposition 50).

Environmental justice and outreach to economically disadvantaged communities should be encouraged by all state agencies. California Environmental Protection Agency is leading an ambitious effort to address the environmental impacts and risks faced by Californians of low-income and ethnically diverse populations. Recent advances include establishing an Environmental Justice Program within the Office of the Secretary, convening an Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice, appointing community stakeholders to an Advisory Committee on Environmental Justice, and implementing an Environmental Justice Action Plan.

This bill encourages each State agency implementing Proposition 50 bond programs to provide outreach to disadvantaged communities. I ask that agencies disbursing funds from Proposition 50 provide outreach to disadvantaged communities in a manner that does not jeopardize the timely implementation of these important programs and to be judicious when considering waiving matching fund requirements so as not to increase the cost of some projects at the expense of others.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger